

Application No. 10/519,238

Reply to Office Action

***REMARKS/ARGUMENTS******Restriction Requirement***

The Office Action has set forth a restriction requirement. Applicants elect, with traverse, the claims of Group VI (claims 21-28 and 49). Reconsideration of the requirement for restriction is respectfully requested for the reasons discussed below.

***Discussion of the Restriction Requirement***

This application represents the U.S. national phase of International Patent Application No. PCT/EP03/06704. Under PCT Rule 13 (37 C.F.R. § 1.475), a group of inventions is considered linked to form a single general inventive concept where there is a technical relationship among the inventions that involves at least one common or corresponding special technical feature. See, e.g., M.P.E.P. § 1893.03(d). The expression "special technical features" is defined as meaning those technical features that define the contribution which each claimed invention, considered as a whole, makes over the prior art. *Id.*

The Office Action alleges that the inventions defined by the claims of Groups I-XI do not share a common corresponding technical feature, and therefore lack a single inventive concept.

The pending claims of at least Groups I, IV-IX, and XI are linked so as to form a single general inventive concept. In other words, the pending claims of at least Groups I, IV-IX, and XI have in common a special technical feature, which defines the contribution that each claim makes over the prior art. For example, the claims of at least Group I, IV-IX, and XI are directed towards a complex comprising the proteins sambiasin and presenilin or nicastrin and other embodiments requiring the complex. Given the special technical feature common to the claims of at least Groups I, IV-IX, and XI, a search for prior art with respect to any one of the groups would likely uncover references that would be considered by the Examiner during the examination of the other groups. The Office Action contends, however, that the invention defined by the claims of Group I does not make a contribution over the prior art because a presenilin-nicastrin complex is known in the art. Applicants respectfully disagree and point out that, while a presenilin-nicastrin complex may be known in the art, a complex comprising sambiasin and presenilin or nicastrin is novel.

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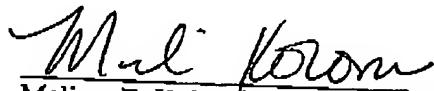
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In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the restriction requirement in its entirety, or at least the examination of the claims of Groups I, IV, V, and VII-IX with the elected claims of Group VI.

*Conclusion*

Applicants respectfully submit that the patent application is in condition for allowance. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned agent.

Respectfully submitted,



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